

Uniform Business Office Newsletter

Helping frontline users perform their day-to-day jobs

Volume 3, Issue 1
Nov – Dec 2004

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IMPORTANT NOTICE: Due to Privacy concerns, all personal identifiers, such as names and personal e-mail addresses, have been removed from this newsletter. We apologize for this inconvenience. If you have questions about an article, please do not hesitate to contact the UBO Help Desk (UBO.helpdesk@altarum.org/703-575-5385)

1. Metric Reporting to Congress

You are late if you have not submitted your 4th quarter third party (TPC) collection data to the new metric website at:
<http://204.106.16.71/UBO/Login.htm>

Remember - it is vitally important for each MTF to submit metrics data in a timely and accurate fashion. This information is consolidated and reported without adjustments to Congress.

2. Rate Release Schedule:

FY '04

- Pharmacy Release – effective date: 6 December 2004
- OIB/Associated – effective date: 27 October 2004

FY '05

- Pharmacy Release – estimated July 2005
- OIB and Associated Rates – estimated Spring 2005

3. UBO Helpdesk Telephone Number Has Changed:

After contacting Tier 1 and Tier 2 for assistance with a problem, call the new UBO Help Desk at (703) 575-5385

4. Update on E-Billing:

Approximately half of billing activities have the e-billing programs. Payment turnaround time for e-bills is usually fewer than two weeks versus paper billing which is approximately four weeks. There are some issues with the Blues carriers with regard to having individual provider numbers, however, usually the return on investment is worth the effort. Stay tuned to the UBO website for more e-billing guidance.

5. Results from the UBO Workgroup Meeting

The UBO Workgroup Meeting was held on November 15-18, 2004 in Alexandria, Virginia. Agenda Topics covered were: (read more shortly on the website)

- Service related issues (Army, Navy, Air Force)
- UBO Charter
- Metrics for Congress
- UBO Performance Goals
- Rates Update/Rates Setting
- UBO Metrics Website
- Charge Master Based Billing
- SCR's Outstanding
- UBO Manual – updated draft
- SIT/OHI briefing
- Revamp of DD Form 2569
- E-billing and recognition program
- Billing of NAF Employees

- DoD/VA Resource Sharing/Joint Venture/ Incentive Programs
- Sunset Clause for PPOs
- Upcoming UBO/UBU Conference – March 2005
- APV Billing Procedures
- Anesthesia Billing Procedures
- MEPRS Code EBH
- National Provider Identifier/HIPAA Taxonomies
- NSPD Billing of Contractors in Iraq
- CoPath Anatomical Pathology System
- Ethnicity needed for HIPAA transactions
- Review of Open Items and Due-outs
- Graduate Medical Education billing update

6. UBO/UBU Annual Educational Conference

Reserve your TDY funding dollars for 4 conference days and 2 travel days for the 2005 UBO/UBU Annual Educational Conference to be held in Leesburg, Virginia in March 2005. Stay tuned for additional information for specific place and dates. If you have any ideas for topics or instructors please contact the [UBO Help Desk](#).

7. What's Coming:

- **Cosmetic Surgery Rates:**
Significant changes will be occurring with the spring 2005 rates for Cosmetic Surgery (which will be included in the OIB/Associated Rates package)
- **Anesthesia Professional Fee for APVs:**
Billing guidance will be available on the website once coders have been trained on APVs.
- **Institutional Component for an APV Visit:**
Because there is no CPT or HCPCS code for the institutional component of an APV visit, the MHS will use CPT code 99199 to indicate the institutional component of an APV visit.
...As of 30 September 2004, all MTF's must discontinue using CPT code 99199 as an "unlisted" code. If you've been using 99199 and still want to collect the data, contact Sharon Taylor at (703) 575-1711.
...Effective 10 October 2004, to ensure correct billing, the MHS will only use the CPT code 99199 for APV data collection and billing.
...As the CPT code 99199 is only for billing, there will not be a relative value unit associated with it.
...As of 10 October 2004, using CPT code 99199 in the MHS will mean "Institutional Component, Ambulatory Procedure Code."
- **Medical Affirmative Claims (MAC) Billing Policy:**
The Federal Register Vol. 68, No.211, dated Friday 31 October 2003, states the rates are effective until new rates are published. UBO is working to have updated rates published in the Federal Register soon.
- **ALERT...**if any billers should see a code with a Y and 4 numbers (ex:Y1234) – please contact the UBO Program Manager at the TMA UBO office.
{Email: [email redacted] or telephone at (703) 681-3492 x4068}

8. UBO References and Web Portals

<u>Reference Sources</u>	<u>Web Portal</u>
Uniform Business Office (UBO)	http://www.tricare.osd.mil/ebc/rm_home/ubo_home.cfm
Uniform Biostatistical Utility (UBU)	http://www.tricare.osd.mil/org/pae/ubu/default.htm
MHS Helpdesk	http://www.MHS-helpdesk.com
Third Party Outpatient Collection System (TPOCS)	http://www.tpocshelpdesk.com
CHCS Implementation Alerts and OIB	https://fieldservices.saic.com
UBO Questions	ubo@tma.osd.mil